



Americans across the country are now voting in presidential state primaries, but many Soldiers can't make it to the polls. Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or merchant marine and their family members may vote absentee while away from their place of voting residence, wherever stationed, inside or outside the United States. For members of the Uniformed Services and their family members, in most states the legal voting residence is defined as where they have, or have had, physical presence at the location and, the intent to remain or return.

The 2004 elections officially began with the District of Columbia Presidential Preference Primary on January 13, 2004. Primary elections play an important role in the electoral process. The names that will appear on the general election ballot on November 2, 2004 are the candidates that were chosen during the primary election process. Voter participation is crucial in any election and primaries are no different. Because dates for both Presidential and state primaries are spread throughout the year, be sure to consult your **Unit Voting Assistance Officer**.

Unit Voting Assistance Officer (VAO)	Unit	Telephone Number	E-mail Address	Building Number
CPT McCune, Kendall J.	229 <sup>th</sup> MI BN	5589	Kendall.McCune@monterey.army.mil	616
1LT Messel, Jacquelyn	A Co, 229 <sup>th</sup> MI BN	6304	Jacquelyn.Messel@monterey.army.mil	630A
CPT Torres, Ramon B.	B Co, 229 <sup>th</sup> MI BN	5224/5797	Ramon.Torres@monterey.army.mil	622
1LT Hammons, Barrett L.	C Co, 229 <sup>th</sup> MI BN	7380	Barrett.Hammons@monterey.army.mil	630
1LT(P) Yates, Lisa R.	D Co, 229 <sup>th</sup> MI BN	5310	Lisa.Yates@monterey.army.mil	834
1LT Delp, Andrea	E Co, 229 <sup>th</sup> MI BN	(831) 905-1114	Andrea.Delp@monterey.army.mil	202
2LT Smith, Crystal	F Co, 229 <sup>th</sup> MI BN	5736	Crystal.Smith@monterey.army.mil	830
1Lt Hooper, Andrea	AFELM	7598	Andrea.Hooper@monterey.army.mil	611
MSgt Parris, Mary	AFELM	5264	Mary.Paris@monterey.army.mil	614
GySgt Joshua L. Paddock	MCD	6177	Joshua.Paddock@monterey.army.mil	610
SGT Brandon Duarte	HHC, DLIFLC & POM	6964	Brandon.Duarte@monterey.army.mil	834
SSgt Moorehead, Freda	311 <sup>th</sup> TRS	7483	Freda.Moorehead@monterey.army.mil	616 R. 223A
Ms. Underwood, Ethel	Garrison VAO	5232	Ethel.Underwood@monterey.army.mil	616

The **Department of Defense Voting Assistance Program** (<http://www.fvap.gov/>) aims to ensure that Soldiers, their families, and Department of Defense civilians overseas can exercise their right to vote. In order to register and/or vote absentee, an eligible U.S. citizen must carefully and accurately complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and then submit it to the proper election official.

All states and territories prescribe two voter requirements:

- ◆ A voter must be a citizen of the United States on the date of the election in which one wishes to vote;
- ◆ A voter must be at least 18 years old on Election Day in order to vote. Some states permit 17 year-old to vote in primary election if he or she will be 18 by the date of the general election.

Department of Defense policy is to encourage and aid all voters to vote in Federal, State, and local elections. When practicable and compatible with military operations, all voters will be given the chance to register and vote in any election for which their state of voting residence has made absentee voting possible.